Dear Phil, 4/5/82

Re Frame-Up: Thanks.

Re The Crime of the Century: I've known about Prof Kurtz for some time. He is an arrogant egomaniac. His theory is that Castro did the JFK job. I'd heard of his book but I don't expect to waste any money on it.

Re Jimmy and the gas station: I believe Jimmy on this and have my own reasons for believing him, but Lane blew that alibi so high nobody will ever touch it with any hope.

My recollection is not clear on which brand of gas it was so I'll give you my best recollection:

I showed Jimmy a xerox of a picture in the morgue, of Willis Green, a black man, who was said to have seen Jimmy. I think Green was wearing an Esso jacket. Here was a clear alibi, printed in the papers. But Jimmy told me it wasn't the guy. Where I'm not clear is if he also said it was a different station. There were two stations at the time, at that one corner. Jimmy drew me several different maps of how he got there and how he returned. He was clear on some things and changed his account of minor details only. He was clear and consistent about when he went where and about his return.

If you examine Jimmy's record with lawyers you will find it is not as he told you. He fired Hanes before the trial, which was hardly after that phase. He would have fired Foreman earlier but he was afraid that Battle would have kept him tied to the public defender, a fear that had ample basis. He didn't fire those after Foreman and before Fensterwald at all. And he fired Fensterwald and Jim Lesar before the appeals process was ended. As a result Lesar was ordered, by Sixth Circuit, to file the petition cert without fee or any compensation. Or thanks or appreciation.

The real truth is that Jimmy considers himself his own best lawyer, and despite his familiarity with case law is the worst jailhouse lawyer he could have. Given any choice he always makes the wrong one and for the wrong reasons. Jerry, too.

There is much he could have told me that he didn't. It could have helped much at the evidentiary hearing. Over the years I've picked some of it up on my own. In part it was his arrogance of mind, his conceit and in part, I believe, fear. He says he won't do the job for the FBI but that is only part and it was entirely immaterial with the team of which I was part.

I've lost track of his suits most of which are friwolous. I knew he was suing Kershaw, who was terrible, but Jimmy also was warned about the committee and the polygraph. He could tell the truth and have it come up as lies on polygraph, he is that kind of person. Yes, I'd like to see your interview. Thanks and best wishes,